

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 098428
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:BDF
APPROVED BY THE ACTION SECRETARY
NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
S/S - R. GAMBLE

-----302127Z 084314 /62

O R 302119Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T STATE 098428

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR

SUBJECT: JFK VISIT

REF: CAIRO 7300 AND 7299

1. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR ALERT RE VISIT OF JFK TO ALEXANDRIA MAY 2-6.
2. DESPITE CURRENT SITUATION, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION TO POSTPONE LONG-SCHEDULED, ROUTINE PORT CALL. CERTAINLY THE SOVIETS COULD NOT RPT NOT READ A MILITARY MENACE INTO SUCH A VISIT (CARRIERS IN PORT WITH CREWS ON LEAVE ARE HARDLY A CREDIBLE THREAT). AT THE SAME TIME, A POSTPONEMENT AT OUR INITIATIVE WOULD HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH
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SADAT.

3. LOOKING AT IT IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WOULD HAVE NOTHING REALLY TO GAIN AND POTENTIALLY TOO MUCH TO LOSE IF WE DID NOT GO AHEAD AS SCHEDULED. SUBJECT TO YOUR RESPONSE TO OUR COMMENTS BELOW, WE WILL GO AHEAD AS PLANNED WITH PORT CALL AND USE YOUR RECOMMENDED PRESS GUIDANCE IN ANSWER TO

ANY QUESTIONS.

4. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED CAIRO 7299, REPORTING ON GOE MEDIA CAMPAIGN IN RESPONSE TO LIBYAN CALL FOR EMERGENCY ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING. WE NOTE THAT CENTRAL THEME IS THAT TIMING OF SOVIET DEMARCHE WARNING EGYPT AND OF LIBYAN REQUEST REVEALS, IN EFFECT, QADHAFI IS SOVIET STOOGES. WOULD APPEARANCE OF JFK AT THIS TIME HAVE EFFECT OF ALLOWING QADHAFI TO REVERSE ARGUMENT ON SADAT, THUS WEAKENING GOE CAMPAIGN FOR SUPPORT DOMESTICALLY AMONG OTHER ARABS? DO YOU ASSUME SADAT AND FAHMY ARE AWARE OF IMPENDING JFK VISIT (WE MUST ADMIT THIS HAD SLIPPED OUR MINDS)? IF SO, PRESUMABLY THEY WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR POSTPONEMENT IF THEY THOUGHT VISIT WOULD COMPLICATE GOE DIPLOMATIC AND INFORMATIONAL CAMPAIGN.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON ABOVE ASAP.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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